

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (canceled)

Claim 19. (New) A syringe comprising a barrel, an associated plunger and a needle unit, said needle unit comprising a housing connected to one end of the barrel, a needle-mounting hub, a biasing element arranged to urge the hub inwardly of the barrel, and a stop element blocking inward movement of the hub into the barrel until the hub is released from the stop element in response to the plunger reaching the final part of, or the conclusion of, its delivery stroke to allow retraction of the needle-mounting hub, characterized in that the barrel, or a part for connecting the needle housing to the barrel, is provided with a lip seal which contacts an outer peripheral surface of the stop element and which tends to deflect radially inwardly when a fluid within the barrel is pressurized during the delivery stroke of the plunger.

Claim 20. (New) The syringe according to claim 1 wherein the lip seal is integral with the barrel or said connecting part.

Claim 21. (New) The syringe according to claim 1 wherein the stop element is arranged to snap engage with the housing to couple the hub to the housing and to retain the biasing element in a stored energy condition.

Claim 22. (New) The syringe according to claim 1 including a sheath for enclosing the needle of the needle unit, the housing including one or more openings through which the sheath and stop element can make contact.

Claim 23. (New) The syringe according to claim 22 wherein the stop element is coupled to the needle mounting hub and the sheath and the stop element can make contact so that the sheath can be used to apply axial force to the stop element without significantly stressing the coupling between the stop element and the hub.

Claim 24. (New) The syringe according to claim 22 wherein the sheath and the stop element can make contact such that the sheath restricts movement of the stop element, to prevent release of the needle mounting hub from the stop element.

Claim 25. (New) The syringe according to claim 22 wherein one or more projections on the stop element engage with the openings of the housing, the openings being arranged so that one or more portions of the sheath can abut with one or more projections.

Claim 26. (New) The syringe according to claim 25 wherein the or each of the projections on the stop element engage with an inwardly directed rib or the like on the housing.

Claim 27. (New) The syringe according to claim 25 wherein the or each of the projections on the stop element has an inclined outer face such that it may ride over the inner surface of the housing before snap engagement with the openings.

Claim 28. (New) The syringe according to claim 1 wherein the plunger is hollow and retraction of the needle-mounting hub is into the hollow plunger.

Claim 29. (New) The syringe according to claim 1 wherein once the housing or the connecting part is connected to the barrel, the force required to free the housing or the connecting part from the barrel is substantially in excess of the force required to effect the connection to the barrel.

Claim 30. (New) The syringe according to claim 1 wherein the housing or the connecting part is engageable with the barrel with a snap fit.

Claim 31. (New) The syringe according to claim 1 wherein the biasing element is a coiled compression spring, arranged in encircling relation with the needle.

Claim 32. (New) The syringe according to claim 1 wherein the needle mounting hub and the stop element are formed as plastics molding such that the stop element is axially captive with the hub, the stop element and the hub being disengageable from each other during said final part of, at the conclusion of, the delivery stroke of the plunger to allow retraction of the needle-mounting hub.

Claim 33. (New) The syringe according to claim 1, wherein the plunger comprises a piston member and a separate hollow rod.

Claim 34. (New) The syringe according to claim 28 wherein the plunger is associated, at its forward end, with a portion which is severable in response to movement of the plunger over

the final part of, or at the conclusion of its delivery stroke, to allow retraction of the needle mounting hub into the hollow plunger.

Claim 35. (New) The syringe according to claim 1 wherein the stop element is of generally cylindrical configuration and comprises a forward portion within the housing and a rearward portion of tapering configuration.